

MCMS PARENT NEWSLETTER

Educating Today for Tomorrow's World

December 18, 2017

Tracy Beam, Principal
816 East Grant Highway
Marengo, Illinois 60152

Marengo Community Middle School Office: 815-568-5720

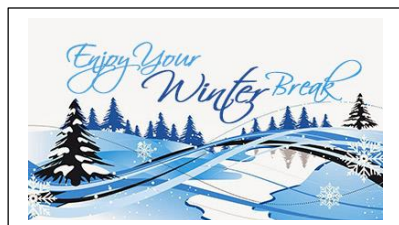
Transportation Director: 815-596-1667

Grant Intermediate School: 815-568-7427

Transportation Department: 815-568-0778

District 165 Office: 815-568-8323

Locust Elementary School: 815-568-7632



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND - EARLY
DISMISSAL AT 11:00 A.M.
NO SCHOOL – MONDAY, DECEMBER
25TH – FRIDAY, JANUARY 5TH
SCHOOL RESUMES ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 8, 2018**

Band News

Thank you to those who attended our winter concert! We love performing in front of a huge audience. We really do appreciate your support!

We have several events coming up in the second semester. We will be playing at select 8th grade girls' basketball games in January and February. Select students will also be chosen to attend Harvard Honor Band which is scheduled for Saturday, February 10th. You will be notified after break if your child is chosen.

Students are also starting to sign up for solo/ensemble contest. Students will rehearse after school starting in February in preparation for the performance in front of a judge over at the High School on Saturday, April 7th. Finally, we will start collecting money for our Six Flags Trip. We are once again participating in the Thrills and Trills Festival which we will be attending on Friday, May 11th. Students will need to send in \$40 in order to attend this event which will cover admission into the park. We will also need chaperones once again to come with us. More information on all of these events will be sent home with students as well as posted on our band website. Please keep an eye out for letters containing this information.

We are excited to perform at all these events! Thank you once again for your support.



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO
MRS. JOHNSON, MRS. KEENUM,
MR. MEALE, BAND AND CHOIR
STUDENTS FOR A FANTASTIC
WINTER CONCERT PERFORMANCE!**

Student Council Happenings

Annual Holiday Tea

Student Council hosted its 12th Annual Holiday Tea on Friday, December 8th. Honor Roll students and their parents enjoyed treats in honor of students' academic success. Congratulations and thank you to all who joined us.



Look for a New Date for the Annual Honor Roll Tea Next School Year

While we have enjoyed hosting the Holiday Tea for all this time, Student Council has decided that after 12 years it is time for a change. Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, our annual tea will be held in February in recognition and celebration of our honor roll students and their parents. Students who earn 1st Semester Honor Roll, and their parents, will be invited to attend the tea. We look forward to a new year, a new tradition, and seeing you next year in February!

Toys for Tots

Student Council members volunteered their time on a Saturday morning for *Toys for Tots*. On December 16, the MCMS Student Council filled toy bags for children in need, at the M.O.R.E. Center in Marengo.

7th/8th Grade Winter Dance

Student Council will host the Winter Dance for 7th and 8th Grade students on Friday, January 19th, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Tickets will go on sale on Thursday, January 11th through Thursday, January 18th, for \$8.00 in advance, during lunch hour in the cafeteria. Tickets will sell for \$10.00 at the door on the evening of the dance.

Sports/Club/Band & Choir Pictures

Sports/Club/Band & Choir pictures will be taken on Monday, February 5th starting at 7:20 A.M., due to some coaches being at other schools. This will be the only time you can have your group sports/club/band & choir picture taken. We will not be having retakes.



Six-Hour Reading

Six-hour Reading for Great America and Magic Water tickets starts on Friday, December 15th! Forms need to be turned in by Friday, January 26th.

Holiday Treasures Sale

Items are donated by students, parents, and staff. The Holiday Treasure Sale is replacing the Holiday Auction. It will take place on Tuesday, December 19th and Wednesday, December 20th. During lunch students will be given time to purchase items using their **PAWS** and **GOTCHAS**. No money is involved! The first two lunches may purchase two items the first day. A small selection of items will only be available to 8th graders on the first day. 4th-7th graders cannot purchase these items on the first day.

On Wednesday, December 20th, all students will be given the time to purchase as many items as they choose, again during the lunch hours.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL OF
YOUR DONATIONS!**



Yearbook Order Forms

Don't miss your chance!

Yearbook order forms will be emailed out to parents and sent home with students the beginning of January 2018. Please fill the yearbook form out and attach a check or cash (exact amount of \$15.00). We will only be taking cash and check for yearbook orders. **NO ONLINE ORDERS.**

Please make checks payable to: District 165. Price per book: \$15.00. Deadline is Friday, March 23, 2018. **PLEASE BE SURE TO INDICATE THE NUMBER OF BOOKS THAT YOU WANT AND RETURN WITH THE CORRECT AMOUNT IMMEDIATELY.**

New Booster Club Items

Looking for last minute gifts for Christmas? MCMS BOOSTER CLUB has new Spirit wear items available in the library.

WARRIOR PRIDE



Snow Days

District #165 has an automated phone calling system which calls your designated number to let you know if school is cancelled for the day. You should receive a call early in the A.M. You can also check radio station 105.5, and our website: www.marengo165.org Please be sure to keep all primary numbers up-to-date as those are the numbers that are called.

School closings by texting was added last year. If you haven't already done so, you can still participate in this free service just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587. For those of you that have Caller ID this will be the number 844-588-8542 that shows up. Please add the number to your contacts so you recognize it. Thank you!



PBIS Students of the Month

Congratulations to our PBIS students of the month for December! These students have been selected by their teachers for demonstrating Respect for Property, All Others, Learning and Themselves. In 6th grade the selection is Savannah S., 7th grade Carter H., and 8th grade Ryan C. Keep up the great work and Congratulations!



Lost and Found

Please have your child check the lost and found in the MCMS office and the cafeteria before the winter break. Any items that aren't picked up will be taken to a needed facility.

Any school books or library books are brought down to the library or the MCMS office.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year will be held on Wednesday, February 7th from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. at Locust School. Child (ren) must be 5 years old on or before September 1st. Please bring a certified copy of a birth certificate and (2) proofs of residency. It is very important for parents to come to this registration on February 7th, please DO NOT wait until July or August to enroll your kindergartener.

Absences

Please remember to report your student's absence from school by calling the middle school office by 8:00 A.M. at 815-568-5720. If you are calling before school hours, please leave a message.



Sixth Grade Boys Basketball Undefeated

Congratulations to the 6th grade basketball team for their 9-0 season! This year's team, Cory, Jimmy, Gage, Mac, Anthony, Paul, Dylan, Jake, Jacob, Ethan, Aaron, Nikko, Leo, and Justin, had wins against Prairie Grove, Johnsburg, Zion, Cambridge Lakes, and Harrison. They all worked hard at practice, played hard at games, and greatly improved throughout the season. A special thank you to our outstanding managers, Sarah and Allie and our awesome parents! I look forward to watching them play as 7th graders! Congratulations boys!
~ Coach Viktora



Seventh Grade Boys Basketball

7th Grade Boys Basketball
This year's 7th grade basketball team was a team of hard workers and players that were dedicated to getting better every time they stepped onto the court. The strides these players made from the beginning of the season to the end were tremendous and I cannot thank the boys enough for giving their all every day. The boys also did a great job in the classroom and showed what it meant to be a student-athlete. Thank you to the parents and the players support staff for a great turnout every game night!
~ Coach Naranjo



Eighth Grade Boys Basketball

The 2017 basketball season was challenging to say the least! Injuries to key players certainly did not help the Warriors' chances this year. Through it all the young men worked hard and had several well-played games. They all improved their overall basketball skills and several players should be able to help the Marengo Indians basketball program next year. Thank you for representing the MCMS basketball program this year and good luck in your future pursuits!
~ Coach Piper



MCMS Cheerleaders

We had an exciting year. If you had the opportunity to see us cheer you got to witness a dynamic group of girls chanting cheers, performing stunts, and tumbling. The MCMS Cheer team had 5 seventh graders and 2 sixth graders this season. The girls were all excited to learn new cheers and half-time routines. Performing the routines at home games allowed the team to show their Warrior Spirit. A special thank you to all those who supported the Cheerleaders, including parents who attended games. Your support allowed our spirit to rise to the top and achieve victory as a squad.
~ Coach Garrett

REMINDER: VISIT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE ALL YEAR LONG FOR OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

www.marengo165.org

Girls Basketball

Our season is quickly approaching! An informational meeting will be held during study hall on Tuesday, December 19th. Tryouts will begin as soon as we return from Winter Break on Monday, January 8th from 3:00-4:30 P.M. All paperwork and physicals must be turned in, in order to participate in tryouts. Please contact Mrs. Sheriff (8th Grade), Mr. Piper (7th Grade) or Ms. Viktora (6th Grade) with any questions.

Mandatory Girls Basketball Meeting

There will be a mandatory girls basketball meeting for parents and players on Thursday, January 11th at 5:00 P.M.



Sports Physical

Sports physicals are required before try-outs start for the sport. A sports physical is good for one year and a routine physical can also be used for sports.

From The Nurse's Office

Reminder to please keep your child home until they are fever free and no vomiting for 24 hours to help prevent the spread of illness throughout the school. Thank you for your help!

Now is the time to start getting the medical information on your child for next year. All 6th graders need to show proof of a DTap and meningitis shot, a new physical and a dental exam. All children participating in the after school sports program need to show proof of a sports physical before tryouts and practices begin.

Fees

All fees for all children must be paid in full by April 1, 2018! Please start to make payments if you are not able to make payments in full at this time. 8th grade students with outstanding fees or lunch balances will not be allowed to participate in 8th grade end of the year celebrations or promotion. All extracurricular activities and all other student fees must be paid prior to first day of practice. Please plan accordingly if your child(ren) will try out for activities.

Family Access

Parents/Guardians please continue to use Family Access for your students' data, and making changes such as: a phone number, emergency contacts, making payments online, etc. The more you use Family Access, the more you will become comfortable navigating around in it. Please be sure to keep all primary numbers up-to-date as those are the numbers that are called.

Website Access for Students

Students have access to our Library Card Catalog system from home.

Destiny.marengo165.org provides access to students from anywhere so they can browse for books that are available for checkout in our library.



Morning Announcements are on the MCMS website under Quick Links-MCMS Daily Announcements.

Seven Winter Transportation Safety Tips

With arctic temperatures gripping much of the country and blizzards and ice warning almost weekly it is important for everyone to take extra precautions to stay safe.

The safety of children on the bus depends not only on the bus driver, but others on the road as well. Here are some weather safety tips for students, parents and drivers.

Students and Parents

1. **Don't rush to catch the bus** - When roads and walkways are slippery, rushing to catch the bus or driving faster to make it to your destination can have disastrous results. Children need extra time to get to the bus stop in cold, windy or snowy conditions. Encourage them to leave a few minutes early and take their time and this will reduce the number of times they fall on slick pavement.
2. **Bundle up like Randy from "A Christmas Story"** - Students need to keep warm at the bus stop, but they also must be able to see and hear what's going on around them.
3. **Put down the phone or any electronics** - Look in the direction you are walking. Take shorter, more deliberate steps.
4. **Get a grip** - Wear footwear appropriate for conditions.
5. **Just a little patience** - School bus drivers are very well trained on driving in inclement weather; however, snow and icy roads can slow down the most experienced driver. Safety is each bus driver's top priority and extra time may be needed to get from stop to stop.
6. **The last step** - The seemingly simple task of getting on and off the bus can be taken for granted. **Always use the hand rails.**
7. **Pay attention to weather alerts and school messages** - Make certain the school has your correct current phone number so you may receive any alerts or messages that are sent out to the school district. ~ Mrs. Frank, Transportation Director

**SAFETY IS OUR # 1 PRIORITY
PLEASE MAKE IT YOURS**



Please Mark Your Calendar



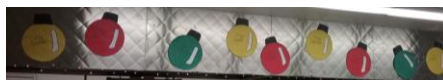
- 19 - Board of Ed at 7:00 P.M.
- 21 - 2nd Quarter Report cards go home
- 22 - EARLY DISMISSAL - Grant & MCMS 11:00 A.M.
- 25th - January 5th - No School - Winter Break



- 8 - School Resumes
- 8th - 10th - Girls Basketball try-outs
- 11 - Girls Basketball Mandatory Parent Meeting at 5:00 P.M.
- 12 - EARLY DISMISSAL - Grant & MCMS 11:00 A.M.
- 15 - No School - Dr. Martin Luther King Day
- 19 - 7th & 8th Winter Dance
- 23 - cePTA at 6:00 P.M./Board of Ed at 7:00 P.M.



- 5 - Sports/Clubs/Band/Choir Pictures starting at 7:20 A.M.
- 7 - Freshman Orientation at Marengo High School at 6:00 P.M.
- 7 - Kindergarten Registration for 2018-2019 school year at Locust 10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
- 9 - 3rd Quarter Mid-term
- 15 - Mid-term reports go home (for academic concerns only)
- 16 - No School - Teacher Institute Day
- 19 - No School - Presidents' Day
- 21 - 8th Grade Field Trip Windy City Bulls Game
- 23 - 8th Grade Promotion Pictures
- 27 - cePTA at 6:00 P.M./Board of Ed at 7:00 P.M.



Mission Statement: District #165's mission is to form a community partnership dedicated to providing a solid educational foundation that enables students to become confident, self-sufficient and productive citizens. Students shall have the academic and technological opportunities to achieve their full potential in a nurturing environment.

Attendance

Just a friendly reminder about attendance and tardy policy:

- 5 tardies to class = lunch detention, note sent home with student
 - 10 tardies to class = after school detention
 - 15 tardies to class = alternative day in the office
 - 20 tardies to class = Administration involved
- Parents please remember that students are only allowed to have nine full or partial days unexcused or tardy to school out of 180 academic school days, before the Regional Office of Education is required to be notified. This includes when the student is on vacation as the absence is considered unexcused.
- Please contact Mrs. Garrett with any questions, at (815) 568-5720, extension 168

A NEW YEAR'S BEGINNING

As everyone returns to their daily activities it's important to remember to stop and take time to be thankful for the wonderful stories we call our lives. As a new school year begins students and their families will begin to write new chapters of their continued educational journey. Some will contain bumps and scrapes, while others will rise above the storm. It is essential to never give up and remember that each person is in control of their own destiny that waits to be written.

~ Mrs. Garrett, Social Worker
Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.
~ Brad Paisley

Thank you to the Aides in Mrs. Miller's (Grant Intermediate) class for making a Winter Wonderland for all to ENJOY!

